

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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EASTERN

F.O.  
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 84

pp. 9989 - 10450

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference

FO 371 / 61851

CLOSED  
UNTIL

1978

61851

3346 NEXT 236

E

E 9989

2

1947

PALESTINE

27 OCT

Registry Number } E9989/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

Lord Enverghat

Washington

5912

24 Oct


27 "

Suspicious ATyp. Retrol Tanker  
Refer Crowley's letter to Beirut of Oct 8 (E9881/84/31)  
re M. Pomeroy's application for two tankers to sail  
under Honduras flag. The second of the same  
application was recently submitted in respect  
of which is for approval was given to HM Minister  
at Tegucigalpa. Plans since reassured  
Honduran Embassy in London that there are  
no objections.

Last Paper.

9982

References.

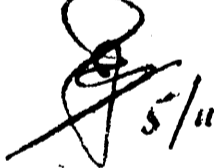
(Minutes) to  
copy under P/L to Paris  
M.I. have no information about these ships  
in their names.  
N.A. Dept.  27/10

(Print.)

61851

(How disposed of.)

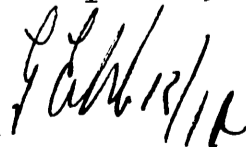
q. Paris no. 1353  
Oct 30

In P.P. Tegucigalpa tel 33 28/10  
copy under P/L to Paris  
ref E9681  5/11

8 P.P.  
(In P.P.) (on E10309)  
Nov 11

q. Paris no. 1397  
(ref)  
on E10309/84/31 Nov 11

(Action completed.)

 12/12

(Index.)

 10/8/48

Next Paper.

~~E 9999~~ E 9999

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference

FO

371

61851

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 9989  
27 OCT

3

Lord Inverchapel  
No. 5912  
24th October, 1947

D. 6.25 p.m. 25th October, 1947  
R. 8.49 a.m. 25th October, 1947

Repeated to Tegucigalpa *ms*

CONFIDENTIAL

Crossley's letter to Beith of October 8th about Mr. Powers' application for two tankers to sail under Honduran flag.

*ms*  
This sounds like same application as was recently submitted to us and in respect of which our approval was conveyed to His Majesty's Minister at Tegucigalpa in our telegram No. 5. Our approval was given after consultation between those concerned in this Embassy on the strength of an affidavit from the Attorneys, in which it was stated that "the Ministry of War and Marine of the Republic of Honduras will not document these vessels until the British Government is satisfied that the vessels will not be used to transport refugees from European ports to Palestine. This affidavit is made for the purpose of assuring the British Government that these tankers will be used for transporting gasoline in the Mediterranean under contract to the French Government". Oral assurances that the ships would not be used for transporting illegal immigrants were also given.

2. Attorneys have just been in touch with us again to say that Honduran registry has not yet been granted and they asked us once again to assure the Honduran Embassy in Washington that we had no objection since the deal might otherwise fall through. This we have done since we still have no reason to believe that ships' activities will not be legitimate.

Foreign Office please pass to Tegucigalpa as my telegram No. 7.

888 [Repeated to Tegucigalpa]

27 OCT  
X X X X X X X X X X

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

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E 9989/84/51

E 4

[EN CLAIR]

3 NOV 1947 DEPARTMENTAL No: 2

FROM TEGUCIGALPA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Fowler  
No: 33

D. 6.30.p.m. 28th October 1947

28th October 1947

R. 4.5. a.m. 29th October 1947

Your telegram No: 33. E

Yes, seeing Ministry tomorrow.

[Foreign Office telegram 33 to Tegucigalpa was not distributed. It referred to Foreign Office telegram No: 32 to which this telegram is a reply].

X:X:X:



*[Handwritten signature]*

1
2
1
3
4
5
2
6

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Reference

FO

371

61851

CP6 LAST 334

E

E 3399

1947

PALESTINE

27 OCT

Registry Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E9999/84/31

Kord Koverchapel  
Washington

5-942

25 Oct

24

Colonel F. C. Johnson

After Washington tel 2800 (E983/84/31)  
barricade at Haifa report, although crew  
and stores are on board, there is still much  
work to be done on "Colonel F. C. Johnson"  
which work has been on engines. No alterations  
have been made to accommodations or superstructure  
No information re date of departure or  
destination.

Last Paper.

9989

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 9.9.P

Oct 29  
(an E9755)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

J. M. 7/11

10/28/47

Next Paper.

10002

(Minutes.)

I think Washington may be on  
the wrong track here. Previous ship  
have always fitted their bunkers etc  
in European ports. She may well  
sail as soon as she is sea-worthy.

Communications Dept. are  
clearing up the anomalous reference.

Hubley  
(SEECABLE)

27/10

I have given the U.S. Embassy  
quite a long lecture on the  
general situation, and the  
"Frederick C. Johnson" in particular.  
Mr L. Jones has weighed in with  
a tel. to the State Dept. which  
he read to me and which  
contained all the relevant background  
to our tel. no. 10743

Mr. Jones  
Oct. 27

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/35 F.O.P.

B.U. Note 93-4

P. J.  
9/28/x

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference  
FO 371 / 61851

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E 9999

27 OCT

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel. D. 2.36.p.m. October 25th, 1947.  
No. 5942.  
October 25th, 1947. R. 9.15.p.m. October 25th, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem  
U.K. Delegation New York, Saving.

SECRET.

My telegram No. 5800 paragraph three. Jewish illegal immigration.

Consul at Norfolk reports that although crew and stores are on board, there is still much work to be done on "Colonel F.C. Johnson". Main work has been on engines. No alterations have been made to accommodation or superstructure. He hopes to obtain photograph of ship and store list shortly.

2. He has as yet no information about date of departure or destination, but has been promised this by friend in customs.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 94.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference  
**FO**  
371 / 61851

277

E

E T0002

7

1947

PALESTINE

27 OCT

Registry Number

E10002/84/71

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

W. Huff Cooper

Dated

Paris

Received in Registry

985  
25 Oct  
27 Oct

*Gildeman*

Refero Marselles tel 132 (E 9978/84/51)  
If not already done so, please inform Malta.  
Understand Malta is kept informed, but  
please pay 10 - text of telegram.

ADDRESSED MARSEILLES 123

Last Paper.

9999

(Minutes.)

*[Signature]*  
27/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 9.9. P.  
Oct 29  
(on E 9755)

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]*  
9/10

(Index.)

*[Signature]*  
1985

Next Paper.

E 10032

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

1
2
3
4
5
6

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E 10002

E 8

Cypher/OTP

27 OCT DEPARTMENTAL No: 1

FROM PARIS TO MARSEILLES

Mr. Duff Cooper  
No: 123  
25th October 1947

D. 4.37.p.m.25th October 1947  
R. 6.25.p.m.25th October 1947

Repeated to Foreign Office No: 985 1766FO E

Your telegram No: 132. Jewish illegal immigration.

If you have not already done so, please inform  
Malta. We believe you always keep Malta informed but  
please say so in text of telegrams.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

X:X:X:



1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

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1947.

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PALESTINE

E 10032

28 OCT

9

Registry Number } E 10032/84/31  
 FROM J. Ward  
 No. Embassy, Rome  
 Dated 37/20/47  
 Received in Registry } L. W. Beith  
 24 Oct  
 28 -

Illegal Immigration, visit to UK of Count SFORZA.  
 Refer Report 2006 (E9760/84/31) States Count Zoppi will be with Count SFORZA, suggests that question of 'Illegal Immigration' be taken up with him as he has dealt with it recently.

Last Paper

10002

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

J. C. M. 1/11

(Index)

10/18/48

Next Paper

E 10030

(Minutes.)

We submitted a brief on the question of Jewish Illegal Immigration for Count Sforza's meeting with the S. of S. (E9760).

Before seeing Count Zoppi, it would be as well to find out the results of the interview with Count Sforza. We should also be ready to tell Count Zoppi what we propose to do about helping the Italians to control their Northern frontier in accordance with the suggestions in Mr. Ruck's report. I have submitted draft telegrams to Paris, Vienna and Washington on this subject. As soon as these have been approved and we know how soon the Home Office can send someone to Italy, we shall be in a position to reply to queries which Count Zoppi will almost certainly raise.

J. Cable  
 (J.E. CABLE)  
 28/10

See separate minute about Mr Ruck  
 E10209/84/31 JB Oct. 30

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference  
**FO**  
 371 / 61851

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*enter E*  
*Sova*  
BRITISH EMBASSY

ROME

10

37/201/47

24th October, 1947.

E 10032

28 OCT

Dear Beith,

You will have seen our tel.no. 2006 suggesting that Jewish illegal immigration should be brought up with Count Sforza during his forthcoming visit to London.

2. You may like to be reminded that Count Zoppi, the Director General of Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is going with Sforza. Zoppi, whose name you will have seen frequently in correspondence, has really been handling this question in the Ministry, except on the rare occasions when it has been necessary to go personally to the Secretary General or to Sforza, and he and I have had frequent exchanges. He has been reasonable and helpful within the limits to which the Italian Government are prepared to go.

3. Apart from anything which the Secretary of State may say to Sforza, it might be worth while getting hold of Zoppi during the visit and having the subject out with him.

*Yours ever*

*Jack Ward*

*PS. Zoppi is No 2 in the "permanent" hierarchy of the Italian M.F.A., i.e. corresponds to Oliver Harvey, to whom I have written about him. So although Z is not a person who stands on dignity (he looks and behaves more like a Scot than an Italian!) he ought to be tackled at least initially on the Under-Secretary level.*

J.G. Beith, Esq.,  
Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

*Tow*

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Piece ..... *61851* .....

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*E10050/84/31*

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference

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**371**

**61851**



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F 10051

1947

PALESTINE

29 OCT

Registry Number *E10051/54/31*  
 FROM *General*  
 No. *Marseilles*  
 Dated *S.I.*  
 Received in Registry *28 Oct,*  
*29 -*

*Weekly Suspect Shipping Report.*  
*Transmit copy of note 45KW/19w S.I.*  
*of Oct 23 to Plenary, Paris. General*  
*weekly report on Suspect Shipping at*  
*Marseilles.*

Last Paper

10050

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

*8, Scherr. M.I.S.*  
~~*out*~~  
*✓ Nov. 5*

*In P.P. (102)*  
*8, Scherr. M.I.S.*  
*✓ Nov. 13*

*In P.P. (?)*  
*8, Scherr. M.I.S.*  
*Nov. 18*

(Action completed)

*E 10051/11*

(Index) *PTB*

*10/11/48*

Next Paper

10053

(Minutes.)

*copy to M.I.S. (Mr. Scherr)*

*JJ 29/10*

*In P.P. 1) Marseilles 17/10*  
*~ 2) C.G. Marseilles 20/10*

*Mr. Cabre*

*JB M.V.P.*

*copies to M.I.S. (Mr. Scherr)*

*JJ 11/11*

*In pp. 3) C.G. Marseilles 7/11*

*copy as above*

*JJ 13/11*

*In P.P. 6) Marseilles 14/11*

*copy as above*

*JJ 19/11*

*P. T. O.*

1
2
3
4
5
6

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 Reference **FO** 371 / 61851

TO EC

5) G.P.P. C.G. Marseilles 27/11  
copy as above

J 3/12

6) C.G. Marseilles 12/12

copy as above. Letter to  
Marseilles

J 18/12

G.P.P. (4)  
as above  
✓ Nov 25

G.P.P. (5)  
as above  
✓ Nov Dec. 8

Marseilles C.G.  
from Eastern Dept  
✓ Dec. 22

Copy  
Paris Chancery  
with E. Dyer copy  
✓ Dec. 23

G.P.P. (6)  
8) Mr. Schen, N.1.5.  
✓ Dec. 23

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference

FO

371

61851

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British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

23rd October, 1947.

SECRET  
S. J.

E 10051

29 OCT

With the compliments  
of  
H.M. Consul-General.

(Weekly suspect shipping report)

The Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

E 13

29

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference

FO

371

61851

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14

British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

23rd October, 1947.

FGKC/gw  
Secret S1.

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular District during the week ended 23rd October, 1947:-

- "ALBERTINA" - Left Marseilles in ballast for Tunis at 8 a.m. on 22nd October, 1947.
- "ARKANGELOS" - No change.

During the week, all the local authorities concerned have been warned of the expected arrival of the "YLDERAN" and "GIOVANNI MARIA" between Marseilles and Sète to embark illegal immigrants. The French naval authorities and the Inscription Maritime are keeping a look-out for these ships but, so far, have nothing to report.

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

MARSEILLES.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Paris.

30

1					
2					
3	1				
4					
5					
6	2				

Reference

FO

371

61851

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Secret S1.

INDEXED

7 NOV 1947

His Majesty's Consul-General, Marseilles  
presents his compliments to Eastern Department,  
and has the honour to transmit to you the under-mentioned  
documents.

British.....Consulate-General,  
.....Marseilles.

17th October, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Suspect Shipping report. 16th October, 1947.	Marseilles Consular District.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference

FO

371

61851

16

British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

17th October, 1947.

WM/gw  
Secret S 1

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular District during the week ended 16th October, 1947 :-

- "ALBERTINA" - Has moved to the Bassin de Carénage probably for scraping and repainting the hull. Work not yet started.
- "ARKANGELOS" - No change.

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,  
Marseilles.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Paris.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	1			2	

Reference

FO

371

61851

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INDEXED

British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

30th October, 1947.

NGIG/SW

~~10 NOV~~  
7 NOV

With the compliments

of

H.M. Consul-General.

(Weekly report on suspect shipping)

The Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London, E.C.4.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1			
				2	

Reference

FO

371

61851

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British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

30th October, 1947.

FGKG/gw  
Secret 81

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular District during the week ended 30th October, 1947 :-

- "ALBERTINA" - Arrived at Marseilles "from the sea" in ballast on 26th October and left the same day after compass adjustment; her destination was not ~~was~~ stated.
- "ARKHIGELOS" - No change.
- "NIKOLAOS" - Please see Foreign Office telegram No. 157 to this post repeated to you. Malta had already warned us about this ship. We have made exhaustive enquiries but cannot find a vessel of this (or a similar) name at Marseilles or any of the neighbouring ports at present. We have also checked the lists of incoming and outgoing ships for the port of Marseilles since the beginning of the year but no mention is made of the "NIKOLAOS". Without further details it is difficult for us to identify her with a ship of another name now at Marseilles.

We have reported by telegram further news of the "YLDERAN" and of a pleasure boat which, we thought, might have been the "GIOVANNI MARIA".

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

Marseilles.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Paris.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61851





19  
British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

7th November, 1947.

10051 / 84 / 31  
12 NOV 1947

With the compliments

of

H.M. Consul-General.

(Weekly suspect shipping)

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference

FO

371

61851

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C O P Y

20

British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

FGKG/gw  
Secret S1

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular District during the week ended 7th November, 1947 :-

"ARKANGELOS" - No change.

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

Marseilles.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Paris.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

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Reference

FO

371

61851



INDEXED 21  
 British Consulate-General,  
 Marseilles

14th November, 1947.

Secret S1

10051 84 71

With the compliments  
 of  
 H.M. Consul-General.

(Weekly suspect shipping report)

The Eastern Department,  
 Foreign Office,  
 London, S.W.1.

41

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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Reference

**FO** 371 / 61851

22

British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

14th November, 1947.

GW/ S1  
Secret

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular District during the week ended 14th November, 1947 :-

"ARKANGELOS" - No change.

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

Marseilles.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Paris.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

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Reference

FO

371

61851

42

No.

10051/84 31

INDEXED

F-23

HIS Majesty's ~~Consul-General~~ at Marseilles  
presents his compliments to ~~Eastern~~ Department, F.O.,  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned  
documents.

British..... ~~Consulate-General~~,  
Marseilles.

27th November, 1947...

Reference to previous correspondence:

Our letter dated 14th November.  
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Jewish illegal immigration. 27th November, 1947.	weekly report.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference

FO

371

61851

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24

British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

27th November, 1947.

FGKG/gw  
Secret  
S1

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular District during the two weeks ended 27th November, 1947 :-

"ARKANGELOS" - No change.  
We have so far been unable to obtain confirmation of the report that this ship was sold by public auction at Marseilles at the beginning of November.

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

Marseilles.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Paris.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference

FO

371 / 61851

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**SECRET.**

10051/84/1) 25

HIS Majesty's Consul-General at Marseilles,  
presents his compliments to Eastern Department,  
and has the honour to transmit ~~to you~~ the under-mentioned  
documents.

British... Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

12th December, 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Our report S 1 of the 27th November.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Weekly report on suspect shipping 12th December, 1947.	Jewish illegal immigration.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference

**FO**

371

61851

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British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

12th December, 1947.

26

Secret.  
SI.  
By Bag.

Dear Chancery,

Jewish illegal immigration. The following is a report of the situation at Marseilles and at other ports in our Consular district during the two weeks ended 12th December, 1947 :-

"ARKANGELOS" - Lloyds agent at Marseilles has made enquiries about the reported sale of this ship. Both the Harbour Master at Marseilles and Ginesta, the local agents state categorically that there has been no change of ownership.

"MARIE ANNICK" - (Your telegram No. 130 of 11th December repeated to the Foreign Office Saving). This ship has not yet arrived at Marseilles or in any of the neighbouring ports.

We are copying this letter to the Eastern Department, Foreign Office.

Yours ever,

Marseilles.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Paris.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

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Reference

**FO**

371

61851



Registry  
No. E 10051/84/31  
J.K.C.

OUT FILE

27 Jan  
22 p

22 Dec

+ | C

Draft.

Consulate General  
Marseille

from  
Eastern Dept

copy to:  
Paris & Nancy

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Dear Consulate General,  
We should be grateful  
if you would send us two  
copies of your weekly reports  
on suspect shipping in future,  
as this would avoid the  
need to make an extra  
copy here.

Yours ever  
Eastern Dept.

*[Signature]*  
18/12

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61851

**OUT FILE**

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

22nd December, 1947.

28

(E 10051/84/31)

Dear Consulate-General,

We should be grateful if you would send us two copies of your weekly reports on suspect shipping in future, as this would avoid the need to make an extra copy here.

Yours ever,  
EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

British Consulate-General,  
Marseilles.

1	
2	
1	
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2	
6	

Reference

**FO**

371

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1947

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29

E 10053

PALESTINE

29 OCT

Registry Number

E 10053/84/21

FROM

O. Halman

No.

Bucharest

Dated

237

Received in Registry

17 Oct

29 -

Uruguayan Representative in Roumania.

Refer 4.0. despatch 1442 (E8882/84/21) of Oct. 2. Report that statement in Roumania of 889, to effect that there is no Uruguayan representative in Roumania is still true. It is therefore not surprising that Uruguayan Govt could get no reply from him, as mentioned in Montevideo despatch 161.

Last Paper

10051

References

(Minutes.)

S.A. Dept. JCP 3/11

*[Signature]* 29/10

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

*[Signature]* 10/11/48

(Index)

*[Signature]* 10/11/48

Next Paper

E 10103

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Reference FO 371 / 61851

RESTRICTED

No.237  
(349/173/47)

British Legation,  
BUCHAREST.

17th October, 1947

E 10053

Sir,

With reference to your printed <sup>29</sup> despatch No.442 (E 8882/84/31) of the 2nd October 1947, enclosing printed despatch No.161 from the British Embassy in Montevideo about Jewish illegal immigrants, I have the honour to report that my statement in my telegram No.889 to you, to the effect that there is no Uruguayan representative in Roumania is still true. It is therefore hardly surprising that the Uruguayan Government could obtain no reply from him, as mentioned in enclosure No.2 to Montevideo despatch No.161 of 12th September.

2. The Uruguayan Government have proposed that Mr. Simonis Manuel should be accepted as their representative here, but the Ministry for Foreign Affairs tells me that it has not yet agreed to his appointment.

3. I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Representatives at Montevideo, Moscow and Sofia.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest respect,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble Servant,

*Herbert Morrison*

The Right Honourable  
Ernest Bevin, P.C., M.P.,  
etc., etc., etc.

E  
30

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference

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371

61851

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242

E

31

1947

PALESTINE

E 10103

30 OCT

Registry Number } E10103/84/31.  
 FROM } John Greenway  
 No. } Panama  
 Dated } 81.  
 Received in Registry } 21 Oct  
 } 20 -

Illegal Immigrant Ships.  
 Refer Panama Ct 94 (E9814/84/31) New  
 Transatlantic Translated of communique issued  
 by Panamanian ship foreign relations on  
 Oct. 18.

Last Paper

10053

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes.)

There are several points which should  
 be noted here:

- (a) Although they have issued this communique to the press, the Govt. of Panama have not given us any official reply.
- (b) The fact that ships have actually arrived in Palestine with Jewish illegal immigrants on board does not, in the eyes of the Panamanians, constitute "authentic proof" that they are engaged in "illicit trade".
- (c) The last paragraph of the communique suggests that Dr. Porras is out of favour.
- (d) Dr. Porras did, I understand from News Dept, give an interview to the London press.

copy to c.o. (Mr. Higham)  
 M.I.5 (Mr. Scherr)

Perhaps News Dept could supply details of Dr. Porras' interview with the press?

News Dept.  
 N.A. Dept.

*J. E. Cable*  
 (J. E. Cable)

There  
 30/10

(Action completed)

J.E.M./12

(Index)

10/10/48

Next Paper

10109

39538

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Reference  
**FO**  
 371 / 61851

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31A

There is no doubt that Dr. Porras did give an interview to a correspondent of the United Press on the 15th or 16th of October, and that this interview was arranged after a conversation between the correspondent and an official of the Panamanian Legation during the previous week, when the correspondent was told that Dr. Porras would have a statement to make on his return from Paris.

Dr. Porras spoke very freely and, according to the correspondent, somewhat wildly of the necessity for the Panamanian Government to act immediately "to prevent a massacre" - a statement apparently based on his conviction that the vessels were armed. The Legation official already referred to had suggested that no less than 75% of tonnage wearing the Panamanian flag should be deprived of Panamanian nationality, but Dr. Porras put the figure more modestly at about 100,000 tons. He affirmed his intention of flying immediately to Panama to take up the whole question and insist on speedy action.

This interview and the previous conversation with the Legation official were both fully reported by the United Press.

*P. E. L. Fellowes*  
P.E.L. Fellowes,  
News Department.  
4th November, 1947.

*M. H. H. H.*  
*Please attach texts of the messages & E had 4/11*

The following are the texts of the messages sent by United Press after the two interviews mentioned, the first on the 11th of October and the second on the 16th of October:

(1). 11th October.

"An official Panamanian source said today that the Panamanian Minister to Britain, Dr. Demetrio Porras, will leave for Panama on October 20th to launch a nationwide campaign against the abuse of the Panamanian flag by foreign racketeers.

Sources close to the Panamanian Legation estimate that 75% of all ships sailing under the Panamanian flag were 'phoney'.

Dr. Porras is spending the week-end in Paris to confer on the matter with the Panamanian Minister to France and with various Panamanian Consuls. After his return to London he is expected to issue an important statement in which he might expose the entire registration scandal. Three weeks ago Dr. Porras/  
Porras/

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References  
**FO** 371 / 61851

Porras returned from Greece where he found out that Greek shipowners and Panamanian honorary Consuls of Greek nationality worked hand in glove to carry out formally legal but 'immoral' registrations of ships.

After his return from Greece, Dr. Porras met the British Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, at the Foreign Office. Bevin is understood to have drawn the attention of Porras on the fact that practically all illegal immigrant ships to Palestine sailed under the Panamanian flag. A spokesman of the Panamanian Legation referring to the Bevin-Porras talk said today 'We are as anxious as the Foreign Office to clear up a most embarrassing situation'.

A close collaborator of Dr. Porras said that, as a result of his investigations, the Minister will formulate heavy charges against various honorary consuls and officials of the Panamanian Foreign Office. He added that the Consuls concerned had made a great deal of money out of the registration of 'Panamanian' ships without paying any attention to their unseaworthy and unhealthy conditions. He declared that a 'major battle' would be fought out in Panama on that issue and added 'We are sure we will win it'.

(2). 16th October.

"The British Foreign Office yesterday informed the Panamanian Minister in London, Dr. Demetrio Porras, that two ships sailing under the Panamanian flag, 'Pan York' and 'Pan Crescent' were presently in the Black Sea and took 8,000 armed illegal Jewish immigrants on board in the harbour of Constantza.

According to the information made available to the Panamanian Minister, Constantza is now a principal assembly point for illegal immigrants from Central Europe en route to Palestine.

Dr. Porras sent an urgent cable to the Panamanian Government asking it to take immediately all measures 'to avoid massacre' since British naval authorities had issued the instruction that any armed resistance of illegal immigrants should be broken by force. Porras warned the Panamanian Government that the matter might have 'grave international consequences' and stated in his cable that the Panamanian Government might be held responsible for such incidents as might occur in connexion with the two ships. Porras also informed his government that altogether twelve ships sailing under the Panamanian flag had been recently engaged in illegal immigrants' traffic in addition to 'Pan York' and 'Pan Crescent'.

Porras told United Press that he repeatedly drew the attention of his government on the part taken in the traffic of illegal immigrants  
by/

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371

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by ships carrying the Panamanian flag, but he felt that the government did not take sufficiently energetic and thorough measures to prevent the abuse of the Panamanian flag. 'If the government will not take the necessary measures to stop the abuse, I shall place the matter before the Panamanian people', Porras declared. Porras who will leave London for Panama next week said he would take up the campaign for the honour of the Panamanian flag in his capacity of leader of the Socialist Party. Porras said he would suggest to the Panamanian President the registration of Panamanian ships be made more difficult!

United Press correspondent's original story ended with the words "altogether not more than 100,000 tons of shipping would be affected by the reforms he advocated" but this sentence was deleted from the message as sent.

*Porras*

P.E.L. Fellowes,  
News Department,  
6th November, 1947.

*W.M.  
6/11*

*Please see also E10280*

*Fellowes  
(J.E.C.B.H.)  
6/11*

*N.A. Dept.*

*Dr Porras has lost  
his time in trying to  
put Sr Morales in the  
wrong. He frankly however  
knows the position.*

*Heppes  
10/11*

*F  
4/12*

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Reference

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371

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33 E

Despatch No. 81  
AIR MAIL

E 10103  
30 OCT

BRITISH LEGATION,  
PANAMA.  
21st October 1947

984/84 E

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No. 94 of October 20th regarding the Panamanian registration of ships engaged in the illegal transport of Jews to Palestine, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a translation of the communiqué issued by the Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Relations on October 18th.

It will be observed that the final paragraph of this statement refers to an enquiry to be held on the return to Panama of Dr. Demetrio Porras, who was reported by the local Press recently to have given an interview in London stating that Panama must withdraw registration of the ships in question and that if necessary he would, as a political leader, appeal to the people of his country over the head of the President himself.

However, tonight's Press states that Dr. Porras has telegraphed directly to President Jimenez denying that he gave any such interview and professing his complete ignorance of the circumstances which gave rise to this report. The President mentioned this telegram without comment at his weekly Press Conference today.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest respect,  
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

The Rt. Hon.  
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,  
etc., etc., etc.

*John Gannaway*

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Reference  
**FO**  
371 / 61851

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34

TRANSLATION

In connection with recent publications made regarding certain vessels of Panamanian registry, the Chancellery wishes to make the following statement:

During the month of July of the present year, the British Legation in Panama made representations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the possibility of cancelling the registry of the vessels "PADUCAH" and "NORTHLANDS" due to suspicion entertained by the British Government that the said vessels were engaged in the illegal transport of Jews to Palestine.

In view of the provisions set forth in our laws relative to the procedure which should be followed for the cancellation of Panamanian registry, the British Legation was informed that it would be necessary to have documentary proof attesting to the illegal activities of which the said vessels were suspected of engaging in, so as to order the cancellation of their Registry. So as to prevent the vessels from engaging in the activities complained against, instructions were forwarded to our diplomatic representative in France to investigate the matter without delay and take steps toward obtaining the necessary proof which would necessitate ordering the cancellation of Panamanian registry of the said vessels; and he was, in addition, instructed to take all necessary measures, requesting the co-operation of the French Government, with a view to preventing the ships in question from carrying out the activities of which they were accused.

Since that date to the present, the Chancellery has exchanged considerable correspondence with the British Legation in Panama and with the diplomatic representatives of Panama in France and England. This correspondence reveals the express interest of the Government of Panama to do what they possibly can to prevent vessels under Panamanian registry from engaging in illegal activities. Nevertheless, the action of the Panamanian Government should have been limited to warning the agents and captains of the vessels, since the lack of documentary proof, as set forth in existing laws, prevented the Government from ordering the cancellation of the Registry and licences in question.

The Panamanian Minister in London transmitted on different occasions the request of the British Government for the cancellation of the registry of the vessels mentioned, and latterly has requested in like manner the cancellation of the registry of the vessels "PANYORK" and "PANCRESCENT", because they suspect that these vessels are also engaged in the transport of Jews to Palestine.

In these circumstances the dossier was submitted to the legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for study, who has submitted the following opinion:

"Following a study of the contents of the dossier and of all the facts relating to the illegal activities, which it is said certain Panamanian vessels are engaged in, and in connection with which a complaint has been filed with this Chancellery on behalf of the British Foreign Office by our Minister in that country, I am of the opinion that there are no grounds for proceeding with the cancellation of the registry of the vessels "PRESIDENT WARFIELD", "TRADE WINDS", "PADUCAH", "NORTHLANDS", "PANYORK" and "PANCRESCENT", all of which are owned by the A.F. and B. Shipping Company.

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**FO**  
371 / 61851

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"I am of the opinion that there is no legal basis for acceding to the request in view of the fact that it has not been possible to adduce a single authentic proof to corroborate the truth of the allegations made by the British Government, all of which is based on merely circumstantial evidence or suspicion. From the reports transmitted by Minister Porras it is adduced that the preparations for departure of the vessels mentioned are taken to indicate that they are engaged in the mass transport of Jews to Palestine. In his telegram of September 2, he (the Panamanian Minister) mentions among other things, the suspicious preparations of the vessels "PADUCAH" and "NORTHLANDS", the property of the same company which owns the vessels "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" and "TRADE WINDS" which were surprised disembarking Jews in Palestine".

"This information of Minister Porras, even though it be regarded as official information, cannot constitute in itself authentic proof, as required by law, to establish the responsibility which must be fixed relating to vessels engaged in contraband, illicit trade or piracy, since it relates to something which it is said has already taken place, having committed a definitive act, which should be easy to prove by more efficient means, thus constituting undisputed proof of the alleged act.

"In effect, Article 1 of Law 54 of 1926 in this connection, states textually:

"Article 1. Vessels which have acquired the status of Panamanian nationality, shall be deprived of same in any of the following circumstances.

- .....
- 3) when they habitually engage in contraband, illicit trade and piracy."

"Resolutions to the effect that a vessel has lost the status of Panamanian nationality shall be issued by the Executive Power through the Ministry of Finance and Treasury, and may be reconsidered by the said Executive Power when reasons exist for doing so."

"Article 2. Any person, national or foreign, may request in writing and under his responsibility or under the responsibility of the person or concern whom he represents, the withdrawal of a vessel from Panamanian registry, attaching to his request authentic proof or proofs, adducing one or more of the reasons specified in the previous article."

"The Ministry of the Treasury and Finance shall forward a copy of the request and of the documentary proof which might have been presented, to the owner, agent or captain of the vessel, for them to disprove the charges made, and a time limit for submitting their reply shall be given, which time limit shall be fixed bearing in mind the distance, in addition to a grace period of 15 days. If the owner, agent or captain of the vessel does not reply within the time limit granted, the Executive Power shall proceed to issue the Resolution concerned, to the effect that the vessel has lost its status of Panamanian nationality and ordering the cancellation of its registry and of its Navigation Licence which was previously issued in accordance with the Law."

"The Ministry of Finance and Treasury shall forward a copy of the Resolution to the applicant, the owner, agent or captain of the vessel, to the Administrator-General of Posts.

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Reference  
**FO**  
 371 / 61851

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35A

and Telegraphs and to the Inspector of the Port, who, once the entry has been cancelled, shall communicate the fact to the Registrar-General and to the Director-General of the Tax Office in order to carry out the cancellation of the registry concerned."

"To proceed with the cancellation of the Navigation Licences of the vessels mentioned, along the lines indicated to this Chancellery by the Panamanian Minister in London, would tend to cause criticism if such Resolutions were issued, since the law requires "authentic proof" to substantiate the complaint which has been put forward".

"In addition, Minister Porras has reported that Secretary of State Bevin has assured him that he would not have requested the cancellation of the Navigation Licences of the vessels in question if he were not convinced that the activities of those vessels are illegal, but such information cannot be regarded as undisputable proof to substantiate the charge of piracy which is made against the vessels mentioned."

"There does not exist in the whole dossier one single authentic proof in support of the truth of the charges made against the Panamanian vessels referred to, and in these circumstances the Executive Power could not take the steps requested without breaking the clearly defined provisions of the law, thus placing itself in the position of being sued for damages."

In the circumstances, the National Government wishes to state that it will comply with the legal provisions governing the matter.

As regards certain public statements made by the Panamanian Minister in London in which he permits himself to pass judgment on the action taken by the National Government in the matter referred to, the Chancellery wishes to state that, following the return of Minister Porras to Panama, it will take such measures as are applicable against a diplomatic representative for conduct such as his while in the exercise of his functions.

Panama, October 18 1947.

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371 / 61851

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243

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E 10109 36

1947

PALESTINE

30 OCT

Registry Number

E 10109/84/31

FROM

B Lanway

No.

Washington

Dated

12/28/47

Received in Registry

23 Oct 30 -

Illegal Immigration

After Washington at 5800 (E 983/84/21) statements have recently been made urging U.S. Govt to put its full weight behind the U.N. resolution for Palestine by Senators Ladd and Wagner, and Herbert Stassen.

Last Paper.

10103

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Higham  
80  
Nov. 5

(Action completed.)

GEM/17/11

(Index.)

17/11

Next Paper.

E 10135

(Minutes.)

copy to C.O. (Mr. Higham)

N.A. Dept.

J. E. Cabler  
(J. E. CABLER)

30/10

Mrs. Beine  
Oct. 30

V. 34 x

Mr. Stassen and Senator Ladd probably had in mind, when making their remarks, President Truman's request to Congress towards the end of the last session for the immediate admission to the United States of 400,000 D. Ps. No action was taken before Congress adjourned but the two influential Republican would apparently be ready to support such a measure. Would U.N. (E. C. Soc.) Dept be interested in it?

32008 F.O.P.

UN (E) Dept. to see

C. E. Ludlam

9/11/47

(C. E. LUDLAM)

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References

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371

61851

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E 37  
BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

23rd October 1947

E 10109

Ref: 15/335/47  
30 OCT

Dear Department,

Please refer to our telegram No. 5800 of the 20th October about illegal Jewish immigration.

2. Statements have recently been made, urging the United States Government to put its full weight behind a United Nations solution for Palestine, by Senators Ives (Republican) and Robert Wagner (Democrat) of New York, and by former Governor Harold Stassen of Minnesota. Senators Ives and Wagner made their statements at a ceremony in New York for laying the cornerstone for a memorial to the six million Jews killed by the Nazis in Europe. According to the Palcor News Agency, Senator Ives said that not only did the United States have an obligation where Palestine was concerned, but that as a member of the United Nations and as one of the great world powers, the United States had a specific duty towards the homeless in other lands who among the living had been the war's chief victims. He felt strongly that Americans had a duty and an obligation towards the displaced persons of Europe and that they should recognise this duty and accept the obligation with the least possible delay. Senator Wagner said that the enforcement by the United Nations of the promises solemnly made to the Jews would at once establish that body as an organisation of international law and morality.

3. Mr. Stassen, speaking to the Annual Convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States in St. Paul, said that the United States should not vacillate

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

/by

1	2	3	4	5	6
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39

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Piece ..... 61851 .....

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 10135 / 84 / 31  
E 10145

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference

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371

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41

Put in Bone  
Shane green  
to send a letter  
to my Douglas

Tomorrow  
Monday  
3/13

Put note shown  
me last night in  
illegal shops  
+ send word to  
Douglas this money  
3/13

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Reference

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S. Dept

43 entered

The S/S handed the top copy of this to the U.S. Ambassador today

Aide-Mémoire.

JH  
29/x

The ss. "Pan Cressent" and "Pan York" are ships of approximately 5,000 tons each and are estimated to be likely to embark about 8,250 Jewish illegal immigrants each. They are under Panama flag and owned by the F. and B. Shipping Company of Panama, whose agent and effective Director is Nathan Cohen of New York. A large proportion of the crew of each ship is American. The ships are at present at Constanza.

The principal ship at present suspected of being equipped for the traffic is the s.s. "Colonel Frederick C. Johnson" of about 2,000 tons, at present at Norfolk, United States. She is being fitted out by the same people who are responsible for sending the s.s. "President Warfield".

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Reference **FO** 371 / 61851

44

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transferred to PRO Safe Room\*

*E10196/84/31*

and closed until..... *1998* .....

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248

E

10204

1947

PALESTINE

1 NOV

45

Registry Number

E 10204/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

in Fowler

No.

49001/19

Dated

35

Received in Registry

30 Oct

11 Nov

Illegal Kampratan, Petrol Tanker  
Bpore en Washington tel 5912 E 9989/84/31  
Chief of Protocol informed on Sept 30 that copies  
of news had telegraphed Hordernan & for New  
York concerning provincial registration of the  
two tankers in question but that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
was still that it was ~~not~~ as provincial  
registration of foreign vessels has been suspended.

Last Paper.

10196

References.

(Minutes.)  
I believe the previous papers are with  
N.A. Dept.

*J. E. Cable*  
(J. E. CABLE)  
1/11

(Print.)

copy under r/m to Paris

ref. E9631

*J. S. 11*

(How disposed of.)

8, J.P.P. (on E 10135)  
Nov 6

9, Paris no. 1397.  
(ref)  
Nov 11  
(on E 10309/84/31)

(Action completed.)

*J. E. M. 12/11*

(Index.)

*10/14/48*

Next Paper.

E 10209

1
2
3
4
5
6

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Reference FO 371 / 61851

10204

E 46

Cypher OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

NOV  
FROM TEGUCIGALPA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Fowler  
No. 35

D. 6.00 p.m. 30th October 1947.

30th October 1947. R. 3.00 a.m. 31st October 1947.

Your telegram No. 32 and Washington telegram No. 5 repeated to you.

Chief of the Protocol informed me on September 30th that the Minister of War had telegraphed Hondurasean Consul-General in New York authorising provisional registration of the two tankers in question but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs now state that he was misinformed as provisional registration of foreign vessels has been suspended. Lawyer here is not in possession of the necessary documents for permanent registration and is now applying to agent for provisional registration. The result will be telegraphed in due course.

Please repeat to Washington as my telegram No. 4.

[Repeated to Washington].

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Reference  
FO  
371 / 61851

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NOV 1 1947

249

E

E 10209

47

1947

PALESTINE

NOV

Registry Number

E 10209/84/11

FROM

70 Minute

No.

7-W.D. Brown.

Dated

24 Oct

Received in Registry

1, Nov

Meeting by O'Hanney and Count ZOPPI  
Extract from record of a meeting between Sir  
O'Hanney and Count Zoppi, re illegal  
immigration from Italy. Also discussed question  
of success of Mr. Ruck to go to Italy to  
co-operate with Italian authorities to prevent  
the traffic.

Last Paper.

10204

References.

10032/84/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

next Mr. Ward.  
Rome  
from Mr. Bock.  
Nov. 6

(Minutes.)

Mr. Ruck saw Count Zoppi on the  
31st October and explained very briefly (Count  
Zoppi being in a hurry) why he could not  
return and why Mr. Perry was going  
instead. Count Zoppi seemed satisfied.  
We told Rome this in our telegram warning  
them of Mr. Perry's impending arrival.  
I do not think any further action is  
required beyond a brief reply to Mr. Ward's  
letter in E 10032.

Please see also E 9800 and  
action thereon.

Western Dept. (Italian Section)

8/4

M. Cable  
(T.E. Cable)  
3/11

In P.P. 70 Minute M. Cable 24 Oct  
- 70 G.S. let to Vienna A/16A 21/10

JB MW.5

JB MW.12

(Action completed.)

J.C.M. 19/11

(Index)

10/8/48

Next Paper.

E 10218

1
2
3
4
5
6

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Reference FO 371 / 61851



JEWISH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE VIA ITALY.

Ever since the end of the War, Italy has been one of the main transit areas for Jewish illegal immigration to Palestine. During the year 1947 5780 Jewish illegal immigrants arrived in Palestine waters from Italy while, of the 17 ships arriving with Jews on board during the same period, 10 had been serviced in Italian ports. The number of migrant Jews now in Italy who wish to go to Palestine is estimated at 28,000 and the total carrying capacity of suspect shipping in Italian ports at 13,500 persons.

2. If the two suspect ships "PAN YORK" and "PAN CRESCENT" now at Constanza succeed in reaching Palestine, as we <sup>far</sup> feel they will, with 16,500 Jewish illegal immigrants, the Cyprus camps will be filled to capacity. The arrival of still more Jews would create a critical situation. It is therefore essential to secure the full co-operation of the Italian Government in preventing the sailing of suspect ships and the embarkation of Jews from Italy.

3. The attitude of the Italian Government towards this problem has, on the whole, been reasonably satisfactory until the last few weeks, when several strongly suspect ships have been allowed to sail in spite of repeated representations on our part. These ships were the "PAN CRESCENT", the "YILDERAN" and the "GIOVANNI MARIA", of which the last two actually embarked Jewish illegal immigrants from Italy.

4. We are no longer in a position to bring the same pressure to bear on the Italian Government as we were before the ratification of the Peace Treaty. To overcome their natural reluctance to prevent the departure of unwanted Jews, there are two arguments we can employ;

- (a) We are doing all we can, by representations to the U.S. and French authorities in Austria and by the loan of an expert immigration officer to the Italian authorities,

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Reference

FO 371 / 61851

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to prevent the influx of Jews into Italy;

(b) Now that we have stated our intention shortly to withdraw from Palestine, we are asking the Italian Government to help us for the last few critical months of our administration, i.e. for a special limited period only.

5. The Secretary of State may, therefore, wish to explain to Count Sforza the importance attached by H.M.G. to Italian co-operation in preventing Jewish illegal immigration from Italy in the critical period before British withdrawal from Palestine and to request him to ensure that the various practical means to this end suggested to the Italian authorities by H.M. Embassy in Rome are energetically and resolutely applied, in regard both to preventing the embarkation of Jews and the fitting out of ships for the traffic.

*J. Cable*  
(J.E. CABLE)

24th October, 1947.

*R. G. G. G.*  
24/x

*B. B. B. B.*  
24/x

*O. M. M. M.*  
25/x

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Reference FO 371 / 61851

Eastern Dept. 49  
p.w.

Herewith your Brief,  
written by S. or B.  
together with extract  
of what was said  
between the S or B &  
Sforza & at the  
meeting of officials.

P.O.W.B.

Approved  
Copy  
[Signature]

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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61851





Jewish Illegal Immigration to Palestine through Italy.

As the result of a suggestion by the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration, and with the blessing of the Italian Government, Mr. Ruck, a senior immigration officer, went to Italy at the end of July in order to investigate the methods employed by the Italian authorities to control their northern frontier and to make recommendations for their improvement. The object of the exercise was to assist the Italian authorities to prevent the influx of Jewish illegal immigrants from Austrian route to Palestine.

Mr. Ruck submitted his final report (which was communicated to the Italian Government) on September 8th and returned to this country. The Home Office had originally insisted as a condition of his employment on this mission, that Mr. Ruck should only undertake a preliminary investigation and that, if it were considered important to employ a British expert as a liaison officer on a more permanent basis, another and more junior officer should be provided. This was explained to H.M. Embassy at Rome before Mr. Ruck went to Italy.

As a result of Mr. Ruck's report, the Italian Government, supported by H.M. Embassy at Rome, have now asked for the services of a British expert to supervise the implementation of the report's recommendations and to maintain liaison between the Italian frontier authorities and their counterparts in the British and French Zones of Austria. The Home Office have agreed to second an immigration officer named Perry for this purpose and he could leave for Rome next week.

Both H.M. Embassy and the Italian authorities are naturally disappointed that Mr. Ruck, who wrote a useful report, cannot return to carry on his work in Italy. Moreover, Mr. Ward has suggested that we should take the opportunity of Count Zoppi's visit to emphasize the continued importance we attach to preventing illegal immigration through Italy. I have therefore suggested that Mr. Ruck should call on Count Zoppi before his departure, to introduce Mr. Perry. A representative of the Eastern Department could also be present.

Mr. Ward has pointed out that Count Zoppi should be approached in the first instance on the Under-Secretarial level. Perhaps Sir Oliver Harvey's office would be good enough to arrange a time before Saturday at which Count Zoppi could receive Mr. Ruck.

Italian Section  
Sir O. Harvey

*J.G.S. Beith*  
(J.G.S. Beith)  
30th October, 1947.

*RM*  
30/x

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

E10032

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61851

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Minutes.

10209 52  
1 NOV

(as per  
not approved)

I attach a copy of an extract from the record of a meeting held in the Foreign Office on 29th October between Sir O. Harvey and other Foreign Office officials on the one hand and Count Zoppi, the chief Italian official accompanying the Italian Foreign Minister.

On 28th October the Secretary of State had already mentioned the question of illegal immigration into Palestine via Italy to Count Sforza and emphasised the importance which we attached to preventing this traffic.

The particular point of importance at the moment is to inform Count Zoppi of the proposal which I understand is now being put forward for a successor to go to Mr. Ruck in Italy as an officer to co-operate with the Italian authorities to prevent the traffic.

Perhaps this could be done by the ~~Egyptian~~ <sup>Rosian</sup> Department getting into touch with Signor Winspeare and suggesting that Mr. Ruck and his successor should go round to see Count Zoppi before the latter leaves on Saturday morning.

Perhaps ~~Egyptian~~ <sup>Eastern</sup> Department could mention this point to Sir O. Harvey before action is taken.

F.D.W. Brown

(F.D.W. Brown)  
29th October, 1947

~~Rosian~~  
~~Egyptian~~ Department

See minute  
JB Oct. 30

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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PAGE VII

ILLEGAL JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE

VIA ITALY

53

Sir O. Harvey drew attention to the Secretary of State's remarks to Count Sforza the previous day and emphasized the importance which we attached to this subject.

Sir V. Hallet hoped that the Italian Government would maintain its vigilance on the Northern frontier throughout the winter and pointed out that we did know that ships which were destined for illegal traffic were being fitted out in Italian ports. He hoped the Italian Government would find ways and means of preventing this.

Count Zoppi said that the Italian Government were doing all they possibly could. They had even exceeded their legal powers. The position was however very difficult and the illegal immigrants received help both inside and outside Italy. He had hoped that Mr. Ruck was going to continue to work with the Italian Government in helping them to stop this traffic, but unfortunately after having been granted full permission to investigate the situation on the Northern frontier, he had not come back to Rome as proposed. He emphasized the difficulties which the Italian Government incurred owing to the attitude of the various relief organisations especially the Joint Distribution Committee, which appeared to be under no control at all and were certainly aiding and abetting this traffic. He could not speak strongly against the various Chiefs in charge of these relief organisations, since many of them, for example Mr. Keeny, had been of such assistance to Italy in connexion with the UNRRA programme. It would nevertheless be better if some of these chiefs could be changed. He also hoped that the British representatives of these relief organisations would do their best to secure the early removal from Italy of all sorts of refugees, since he was convinced that some even of the Jewish refugees would be content to go to countries other than Palestine if such plans could be made for them. He hoped to see a change for the better now that the International Refugee Organisation - Italian agreement was about to be signed.

Sir O. Harvey said that we were doing our best to make the I.R.O. a more efficient organisation. We had great hopes that we would succeed in this and that the plans for emigration would be speeded up. Sir Arthur Rucker had gone out to Italy and we had emphasized to him the importance of this question and brought to his notice the difficulties which Count Zoppi had mentioned regarding the directors of the various refugee organisations.

It was agreed that we should find out why it had not been possible for Mr. Ruck to return to Rome as proposed.

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VII. ILLEGAL JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE  
VIA ITALY. 54

Sir O. Harvey drew attention to the Secretary of State's remarks to Count Sforza the previous day and emphasized the importance which we attached to this subject.

Sir V. Mallet hoped that the Italian Government would maintain its vigilance on the Northern frontier through-out the Winter and pointed out that we did know that ships which were destined for illegal traffic were being fitted out in Italian Ports, and that he hoped the Italian Government would find ways and means of preventing this.

Count Zoppi said that the Italian Government were doing all they possibly could. They had even exerted their legal powers. The position was however very difficult and the illegal immigrants received help both inside and outside Italy. He had hoped that Mr. Ruck was going to continue to work with the Italian Government in helping them to stop this traffic but unfortunately after having been granted full permission to investigate the situation on the Northern frontier, he had not come back to Rome as proposed. He emphasized the difficulties which the Italian Government incurred owing to the attitude of the various relief organisations especially the Joint Distribution Committee, which appeared to be under no control at all and was certainly aiding and abetting this traffic. He could not speak strongly against the various Chiefs in charge of these relief organisations, since many of them, for

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371 / 61851

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example Mr....., had been of <sup>55</sup>  
such assistance to Italy in connection with  
the UNRRA programme. It would nevertheless  
be better if some of these chiefs could be  
changed. He also hoped that the British  
representatives of these relief organisations  
would do their best to secure the early  
removal from Italy of all sorts of refugees,  
since he was convinced that some even of the  
Jewish refugees would be content to go to  
countries other than Palestine if such plans  
could be made for them. He hoped to see a  
change for the better now that the I.R.O -  
Italian agreement was about to be signed.

Sir O. Harvey said that we were doing  
our best to make the I.R.O. a more efficient  
organisation. We had great hopes that we  
would succeed in this and that the plans  
for emmigration would be speeded up. Sir  
Arthur Rucker had gone out to Italy and we  
had emphasized to him the importance of this  
question and brought to his notice the  
difficulties which Count Zoppi had mentioned  
regarding the directors of the various  
refugee organisations.

It was agreed that we should find out  
why it had not been possible for Mr. Ruck  
to return to Rome as proposed.

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CYPHER  
(Re-phrasing  
unnecessary)

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

(This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be  
retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on)

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE(GERMAN SECTION) TO VIENNA

No. A/164

SECRET

31st October 1947

IMMEDIATE

D. 5.40 pm 31st October 1947

Under arrangements made by Eastern Department  
with Political Representative Mr L.J. PERRY is to  
travel to Vienna next week to report to Brigadier Hope,  
Intelligence Division.

2. A separate telegram to Political Representative  
will follow.
3. Please signal calling forward.

Originator: Mr D. Freeman

Distribution: Standard Travel Policy  
Home Office Aliens Branch  
(Mr Ruck)  
Eastern Dept (Mr Britt) ✓  
German Refugee Dept  
(6 copies)

A/164  
66  
/AGM

56  
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Reference  
**FO** 371 / 61851

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Registry  
No. E 10209/34/31

OUT FILE

5/2  
6/1  
6/1/57

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

J.E.C.

to C

Draft.

J.G.  
Mr. Ward, C.M.G.,  
Rome Embassy

from  
J.G.S.  
Mr. Beith

RECEIVED IN  
DIVISION.  
5 NOV 1947  
SENT TO TYPE 5/11  
DESPATCHED 6/11

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.St.

later  
we arranged  
to

E 10052  
Dear Ward,  
Thank you for your letter  
no. 37/201/47 of the 24th.  
October about Count Zoffi's  
visit to London.  
You will ~~already~~ <sup>no doubt</sup>  
have seen an account of  
Count Zoffi's interview with  
Sir O. Harvey, <sup>on Oct. 29</sup> in which the  
subject of Ruck's mission was  
discussed. ~~As you will have seen~~  
~~we said in~~  
~~our telegram no. 2334,~~  
Ruck himself to call on Count  
Zoffi in order to clear up  
~~any~~ <sup>the</sup> misunderstanding and to  
let him know that his  
successor, Perry, would shortly  
leave

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Reference  
**FO**  
371 / 61851

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leave for Italy. The interview  
was very brief, as ~~brant~~ Zoppi  
having been squeezed in between  
two of ~~his~~ Zoppi's many  
engagements, but he seemed  
quite satisfied and had  
no further <sup>suggestions</sup> ~~remarks~~ to make.

JB MV. 5

Yours ever

(Sgd.) John Reith.

57A

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1. 58  
6th November, 1947.

(E 10209/84/31:)

Restricted

Dear Ward,

Thank you for your letter No. 37/201/47 of the 24th October about Count Zoppi's visit to London.

You will no doubt have seen an account of Count Zoppi's interview with Sir Oliver Harvey on 29th October in which the subject of Ruck's mission was discussed. As we said in our telegram No. 2334, we later arranged for Ruck himself to call on Zoppi in order to clear up any misunderstanding and to let him know that his successor, Perry, would shortly leave for Italy. The interview was very brief, having been squeezed in between two of Zoppi's many engagements, but he seemed quite satisfied and had no further suggestions to make.

*Yours ever*

(Sgd.) John Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

J.G. Ward Esq., C.M.G.,  
Rome.

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254

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63

1947

PALESTINE

10282

4 NOV

Registry Number

E10282/84/31

FROM

W. Kelly Cooper  
Paris

No.

Dated

28 Oct

Received in Registry

4 Nov

S.S. "Northlands"

copy of letter from G. Crossley, Paris to  
M. Elgino Oana, Panamanian Legation, Paris,  
showing disappointment in learning that  
the lists of provisions and nautical gear  
were in fact signed and sealed by the  
captain alone, also that the investigations  
conducted by Panamanian Consul General  
were not very serious.

Last Paper.

10280

(9733)

(Minutes.)

N.A. De...  
2/11/47

J. 17/11

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed)

J. C. 21/11

(Index)

10282/84/31

Next Paper.

E 10309

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Piece ..... 61851 .....

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of the Public Records Act, 1958

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM VIENNA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H. Mack.

No. 1040

4th November, 1947

D. 11.30 a.m. 4th November, 1947

R. 12.10 p.m. 4th November, 1947

Repeated to Paris; Rome; Washington and Jerusalem.

IMPORTANT

Your telegram No. 1498.

From High Commissioner.

10326

5 NOV

General Galloway called on General Keyes this afternoon and discussed the matter in your telegram No. 1498 with him.

2. General Keyes attitude was sympathetic but he re-affirmed that his instructions were neither to aid nor hinder such movement. He was of the opinion for seasonal and other reasons, movement was likely to fall off in numbers considerably in the near future. He agreed to a meeting as suggested by the French element referred to in my telegram No. 1028 to discuss the problem at Deputy Commissioners level.

3. General Galloway left a letter confirming his conversation.

4. Mr. Cheetham will also see Mr. Mellon of the United States Legation on the same subject as the United States Minister is on the sick list.

5. Will report further after proposed meeting has taken place.

Foreign Office please repeat important to Paris, Rome and Washington as my telegram No. 46, 33, 245 respectively and to Jerusalem.

[Repeated to Paris, Rome and Washington.

Copies sent to Telegram Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

k k k



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Reference

FO 371 / 61851

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279

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10408 70.

1947

PALESTINE

NOV

Registry Number } E10408/84/21  
 FROM Embassy  
 No. Paris  
 Dated 9.21.  
 Received in Registry } 30 Oct  
 4 Nov

Illegal Immigration from France.  
 Transmits copy of Note n° 976 to My Foreign  
 Affairs of 30 Oct, re Prevention of Illegal  
 Immigration from France to Palestine.

Last Paper.

10726

(Minutes.)

Please see letter to Paris & Embassy  
 of 21 November on WR 3528/7/48

References.

*Spiller*  
 (J.E. CABW)  
 21/11  
 do mv. 2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

See. 1/77  
 22/11

(Index.)

*AB*  
 10/8/47

Next Paper.

10409

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Reference  
**FO**  
 371 / 61851

921

E71

HIS Majesty's **Ambassador** at **Paris**  
presents his compliments to **H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A.**  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned  
documents.

British..... **Embassy,**  
..... **Paris**  
.....

**10 108**  
**7 NOV**

**30th October....., 1947....**

*Reference to previous correspondence:*

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Note No. 976 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated 30th October, 1947.	Prevention of Jewish illegal immigration from France to Palestine.

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Reference **FO** 371 / 61851

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72

British Embassy,

Paris.

30th October, 1947.

No. 976  
(72/919/47)

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to the Ministry's Note of 24th October 1947 (Direction des Conventions Administratives et Sociales), have the honour to thank the Ministry for the measures described therein, which are being applied by the French authorities in order to control foreign vessels and their passengers at French ports and thus to prevent further illegal immigration of Jews from France to Palestine.

2. These measures are most welcome and will doubtless prove of great assistance to His Majesty's Government in their arduous task in Palestine.

3. His Majesty's Embassy hope that particularly careful investigations will be made into any request for bunkers, made by a suspect vessel for a port of call sufficiently distant to enable it, with such bunkers, to reach Palestine. No doubt some of the other measures of delay suggested in the Embassy's note No. 959 of October 21st will make it possible in such cases to prevent the sailing of suspect vessels, and His Majesty's Embassy trust that these additional suggestions will be carefully examined by the competent French authorities.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Reference

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1947

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10 109

7 NOV

PALESTINE

Illegal Immigration.

Registry Number } E10409/84/31  
 FROM Legation  
 No. Sofia  
 Dated 3/14  
 Received in Registry } 29 Oct  
 7 Nov

After Sofia tel 1284 (E9571/84/11) transmit copy of Note Verbale 146892-42-11 of 22 Oct from Bulgarian Ministry Foreign Affairs re prevention of embarkation of illegal immigrants aboard "Pan York" and "Pan Crescent".

Last Paper

10408

References

E10084/48/C

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8, Higham, 80.  
 Robertson, M. 15,  
 ✓ Nov. 11

(Action completed)

JG 10/12/47

(Index)

JG 10/12/47

Next Paper

10413

(Minutes.)

Copy to

MIS

usual names

Not very

forthcoming

Southern Dept.

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JBNM.7

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61851

No. 27/130/47  
314 Minister Sofia *E*  
*74*

HIS Majesty's His Majesty's Principal  
presents his compliments to Secretary of State for  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned  
documents. Foreign Affairs

British..... Legation .....

.....SOFIA.....  
29th October 1947

Reference to previous correspondence: *1571/84/11*

Sofia telegram No. 1284 of 11th October,  
" despatch No. 297 to Foreign Office  
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note Verbale No. 46892-42-11 dated 22nd October 1947 from the Bulgarian Ministry for Foreign Affairs  <i>Also sent:</i>  Bucharest No. 13 Ukdel New York No. 3 Washington No. 64 Jerusalem No. 2	Jewish illegal immigrants.

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Reference  
**FO**  
371 / 61851

COPY:

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Ministère des Affaires  
Etrangères et des Cultes

Sofia, le 23/10/47

No. 46892 - 72 - 11

NOTE VERBALE

En réponse à la note verbale No. 257 (27/107/47) du 11 Octobre 1947 et à la lettre personnelle No. 27/122/47 du 17 Octobre 1947, adressée par S.E. le Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Grande Bretagne à Sofia au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et des Cultes a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de la Légation de Grande Bretagne que les autorités des ports bulgares de la Mer Noire ont reçu la prescription de se tenir strictement aux règles de la pratique en usage en ce qui concerne les embarquements illégaux qui pourraient avoir lieu de Bulgarie sur les bateaux "Pan Crescent" et "Pan York".

Le Ministère saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à la Légation de Grande Bretagne les assurances de sa haute considération.

Sofia, 13 22 Octobre 1947.

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*371* / *61851*



264

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10:50 76A  
7 NOV

1947

RAESTINE

Registry Number } E10450/84/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. W. Holman

Dated Bucharest

Received in Registry } 1297

7 Nov

7 -

"Pan Brest" and "Pan York"  
Refer to tel 1250 (E10312/84/31) "Pan Brest" and "Pan York" are still in Constanta Harbour.  
Report appears to be a diversion on the part of the "Daily Express" correspondent who in himself a liar and believed to be in touch with the organizers of this traffic.

Last Paper.

10446

(Minutes.)

References.

News Dept  
11/8/48

JB, Nov. 8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9.9. P.  
Nov 12

(Action completed)

G. E. M. 11/11

(Index.)

11/8/48

Next Paper.

E 10490

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FO 371 / 61851

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10150  
7 NOV

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EAD

Cypher OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Holman  
No. 1297

D. 11.08 a.m. 7th November 1947.

7th November 1947. R. 11.41 a.m. 7th November 1947.

Repeated to Angora  
Jerusalem  
Sofia  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta  
British Middle East Office Cairo for Commander-in-  
Chief, M.E.L.F.

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 1250. E

Pan Crescent and Pan Yerk are still in Constanza  
Habeur.

2. Report appears to be a diversion on the part of the  
"Daily Express" correspondent who is himself a Jew and  
believed to be in touch with the organisers of traffic.

Foreign Office please repeat to Angora, Jerusalem,  
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta, and British Middle  
East Office Cairo for Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. as my  
telegrams Nos. 40, 64, 11 and 23 respectively.

[Repeated to Angora and British Middle East Office Cairo].

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for  
repetition to Jerusalem].

[Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty for repetition  
to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta].

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